From: Clancy, Carolyn

Sent: 6 Nov 2017 12:46:00 -0400

To: Law, Cassandra M.

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Congratulations on your appointment to Under

Secretary for Health

Thank you

Carolyn M. Clancy, MD
Executive in Charge
Veterans Health Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave, NW
Washington DC 20420
(b)(6)

From: "Law, Cassandra M." < <u>Cassandra.Law@va.gov</u>> Date: Monday, November 6, 2017 at 12:43 PM

To: Department of Veterans Affairs < carolyn.clancy@va.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Congratulations on your appointment to Under Secretary for Health

Very well. We have extensive IBs and history from Lisa Freeman, Palo Alto and the VISN. I'll get the history for background.

Cassie

From: Clancy, Carolyn

Sent: Monday, November 06, 2017 8:39:27 AM

To: Law, Cassandra M.

Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Congratulations on your appointment to Under Secretary for Health

Do you know this individual?

Clearly a long story — I am most worried about the last sentence

Carolyn M. Clancy, MD Executive in Charge Veterans Health Administration Department of Veterans Affairs 810 Vermont Ave, NW Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congratulations on your appointment to Under Secretary for Health

@foxnews.com>

Dear Dr. Clancy,

Pfoxnews.com" (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Congratulations on your appointment as Under Secretary for Health at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

On June 16, 2015, as the interim Under Secretary for Health, you signed the attached memorandum authorizing the expenditure of taxpayer dollars for LEAN training, a systematic method for waste minimization. (b)(6)

You served as the <u>Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Quality, Safety, and Value (ADUSH QSV)</u>. The <u>VA Functional Organization Manual v2.0a of 2014</u>, defined the missions, functions, tasks, and authorities of the ADUSH QSV as being "committed to... ensuring... the lowest expenditure of resources." Among the functions and activities of the ADUSH QSV is to "foster a culture that acts with integrity to achieve accountability."

On September 22, 2015, you testified to the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee "to discuss ways that Congress and VA can further encourage Federal employees to come forward with their concerns regarding quality;

patient safety; and waste, fraud, and abuse." Your written statement asserted that "the underlying purpose of whistleblower protection rules is to encourage the candid disclosure of information about problems, so that deficiencies are corrected and unsafe or unlawful behavior is quickly corrected."

In	October 2015, I blew the whistle directly to the Secretary of the VA on the (b)(6)
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0:	n April 4, 2016, I blew the whistle on this (b)(6)
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On March 15, 2017, you testified before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, addressing "the Department of Veterans Affairs' efforts to improve the issues identified by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) that placed VA health care on the 2015 GAO High Risk List." Regarding the GAO's determination of "inadequate oversight and accountability," you cited a "significant organizational transformation that aligned several key offices... led by a newly established Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Integrity." The VA Functional Organization Manual v4.0 of 2017 specifies that the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Integrity "synthesizes information from internal and external oversight activities to promote a strong ethical and just culture that builds trust and confidence in Veterans health care." Among the assigned functions of this newly created office are 1) "Conduct internal oversight activities (investigations, audits, risk assessment, and business compliance) in accordance with VHA policy and industry standards," and 2) "Demonstrate VHA commitment to address high risk areas identified by GAO."

The GAO 2017 High Risk Report 17-317, issued February 15, 2017, Managing Risks and Improving VA Health Care, stated that "[s]ince designating Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care as a high-risk area in 2015, we continue to be concerned about VA's ability to ensure its resources are being used cost-effectively and efficiently to improve veterans' timely access to health care, and to ensure the quality and safety of that care."

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On September 18, 2017, <u>you testified</u> before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Oversights and Investigations, that the VA is "committed to always protecting... whistleblowers from retaliation. VA has and will continue to take immediate action when responding to whistleblower concerns at any VA facility across the country." In your September 22, 2015 testimony you stated that "[w]e depend on these employees to be vigilant about actual and potential sources of harm to patients, and to voice their concerns if a patients' safety is at risk. In fact, providing safe, high-quality health care is not possible unless caregivers voice their concerns."

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In 2007, you authored an article entitled "Emergency Pharmacists: A New Road to Medication Safety," in which you stated that:

Preventing medication errors, which account for nearly 20% of adverse events overall and affect about 4% of all hospital stays, has become a high-profile goal among national and international patient safety advocates, healthcare organizations, and healthcare providers (IOM, 2000).

Today, significant progress is underway in hospitals to comply with national patient safety goals set by the Joint Commission to reduce the risk of medication-related errors. Requirements include labeling all medications...

While this effort moves forward, momentum is also building to reduce medication errors in an especially high-risk environment — hospital emergency departments (EDs). Hospital EDs had the highest rate of preventable adverse events in the clinical environments studied by the Institute of Medicine, with a potential of 3.8 million annual events thought to be preventable, according to the 2006 IOM report, Preventing Medication Errors.

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Title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 211.134, Drug Product Inspection, specifies that "Packaged and labeled products shall be examined during finishing operations to provide assurance that containers and packages in the lot have the correct label." The FDA Guidance for Industry on Repackaging of Drugs by Pharmacies and Outsourcing Facilities, specifies that "Repackaged drug products are not exempt from the provisions of the FD&C Act related to the production of drugs. Repackaged drug products are subject to the misbranding provisions of the FD&C Act, concerning current good manufacturing practice."

Pharmacy Errors: Swallowing the Wrong Pill, ABC News Radio, November 23, 2011:

Anecdotal evidence suggests that this problem is more common than believed,
especially since there are various ways to fill prescriptions, including in-store and
online. But there's no formal method used to track pharmacy errors, according to
Dr. Carolyn Clancy, director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

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Don't Let Medicines Cause Harm, by Carolyn M. Clancy, M.D., December 7, 2010: Make sure your medicine is what the doctor ordered. Many drugs look alike and have names that sound alike. Check with your doctor or pharmacist to be sure you have the right medicine. If you are getting a refill and the medicine looks different, ask the pharmacist about it.
(b)(6)

<u>Common Problems Patients Face in the Hospital</u> - Understand your hospital risks and ask these vital questions -- to keep those risks in check, by R. Morgan Griffin, WebMD, 2007:

Hospital Risk No. 1: Medication Errors

"Far and away, the most serious hospital risk is a <u>medication</u> error," says Carolyn Clancy, MD, director of the Agency for <u>Healthcare</u> Research and Quality (AHRQ) in Rockville, Md. "All it takes is for someone to miss a decimal point and you could have a life-threatening mistake."

Bar code tech and eMAR significantly reduce medication errors, by Mike Miliard, Healthcare IT news, June 14, 2010:

"Medication errors in hospitals are a very serious issue and can often lead to patient harm," said AHRQ Director Carolyn M. Clancy, MD. "The good news from this study is that using bar code technology and an electronic medication administration record together can be an important intervention to achieve medication safety."

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Pain Relief Connection, The Pain Information Newsletter Provided by MGH Cares About Pain Relief, February 27, 2003, refers to "bupivicaine for epidural administration," and cites a quote worth remembering, "Many people once believed that if you conducted the right study that the findings would be so compelling that they would lead to immediate change. This is what I sometimes refer to as the Newtonian approach to dissemination: It all rolls downhill from gravity." (Carolyn Clancy, MD, Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality)	
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(b)(6)	

AHRQ Announces Guide to Help Patients on Coumadin®/Warfarin Therapy, AHRQ, May 22, 2008

"Warfarin is an effective drug, but it must be used with special care to avoid dangerous bleeding," said AHRQ Director Carolyn M. Clancy, M.D. "Individuals respond differently to warfarin, so the dosage must be personalized to each patient, and it is

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I wish you the best of luck in your new position, and truly hope that you can improve the quality of healthcare delivered to Veterans.

Respectfully, (b)(6)

Clancy, Carolyn From: Sent: 6 Nov 2017 12:39:27 -0400 To: Law, Cassandra M. Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Congratulations on your appointment to Under Secretary for Health Attachments: Clancy.pdf High Importance: Do you know this individual? Clearly a long story — I am most worried about the last sentence Carolyn M. Clancy, MD Executive in Charge Veterans Health Administration Department of Veterans Affairs 810 Vermont Ave, NW Washington, DC 20420 (b)(6)From (b)(6) @gmail.com> Date: Monday, November 6, 2017 at 12:10 PM To: Department of Veterans Affairs <carolyn.clancy@va.gov>, "Shulkin, David J., MD" <<u>David.Shulkin@va.gov> (b)(6)</u> gmail.com> Cc: "Shropshire, Saundrea (HSGAC)" <Saundrea Shropshire@hsgac.senate.gov>, "tony mcclain@vetaff.senate.gov" <tony mcclain@vetaff.senate.gov>, "Mallison, William" <william.mallison@mail.house.gov>, "varoi@mail.house.gov" <varoi@mail.house.gov> "patrick magnuson@appro.senate.gov" < patrick magnuson@appro.senate.gov (b)(6) @mwe.com"(b)(6) Dbellsouth.net> (b)(6) mwe.com> (b)(6) @pogo.org" (b)(6)pogo.org>, "Coleman, Brandon" <Brandon.Coleman3@va.gov>(b)(6) (b)(6)pgmail.com>, (b)(6) washpost.com (b)(6) washpost.com>, (b)(6)(b)(6) washpost.com @usatoday.com> (b)(6) <u>vcbs.com</u>>, (b)(6) (b)(6)bayareanewsgroup.com" Dbayareanewsgroup.com>, (b)(6) @cv4a.org'(b)(6) Diava.org> Dcv4a.org>. @foxnews.co (b)(6) (b)(6)@foxnews.com> Subject: [EXTERNAL] Congratulations on your appointment to Under Secretary for Health Dear Dr. Clancy, Congratulations on your appointment as Under Secretary for Health at the Department of Veterans Affairs. On June 16, 2015, as the interim Under Secretary for Health, you signed the attached

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I wish you the best of luck in your new position, and truly hope that you can improve the quality of healthcare delivered to Veterans.

Respectfully,

Page 20 of 76

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Page 21 of 76

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Page 22 of 76

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Page 23 of 76

Withheld pursuant to exemption

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Page 24 of 76

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(6)

From:	Cox, Gerard R. VHACO	
Sent:	10 Mar 2017 13:29:44 -0500	
To:	Bevins, Debi	
Cc:	Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.; Young, Steven W.; Clancy, Carolyn; Czarnecki,	
Tammy; Wright, Vivieca	(Simpson);Culpepper, Michael;Flanz, Meghan Serwin;Hyduke,	
Barbara; Rasmussen, Ka	ren M. ^{(b)(6)} OIG);DJS	
Subject:	RE: Whistleblower Disclosure	
71000011111011101	(b)(6)	
b)(6)		
Hi Debi,		
The current status of (b)	iginal inquiry in February (b)(6)	
b)(6)		

All the best, Gerry

Gerard R. Cox, MD, MHA

Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Integrity (10E1)

Veterans Health Administration 810 Vermont Avenue, NW Room 638 Washington, DC 20420 (202) 461-7571 Gerard.cox@va.gov

Executive Assistant: Ms. Sharice Smith-Lewis (sharice.smith-lewis@va.gov or (202) 461-1758)

The Office of Integrity's mission is to strengthen trust and confidence in Veterans health care by fostering an ethical and just culture and by integrating information from oversight activities.

From: Bevins, Debi

Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 9:59 AM

To: Cox, Gerard R. VHACO

Cc: Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.; Young, Steven W.; Clancy, Carolyn; Czarnecki, Tammy; Bevins, Debi; Wright, <u>Vivieca (Simpson)</u>; Culpepper, Michael; Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Hyduke, Barbara; Rasmussen,

Karen M. OIG); DJS **Subject:** Whistleblower Disclosure

Gerry

		urrent email/allegations to the Secretary. Do we have quiry in February? Thanks!
Debi Bevins		reconstruction and
	Client Relations Office of t	
	of Veterans Affairs 810 \	Vermont Ave, NW
	Washington, DC 20420 4830 F: 202-495-5462	
1. ZUZ-4UI -	1030 1.202-433-3402	
Office of Re	of Ut Uations	
	rteous - Respectful	
From (b)(6)	(b)(6)	
Sent: Friday	, March 10, 2017 9:15 AM	
To: Shulkin,	David J., MD; <u>lynn_tieerdsma</u> @vetaff.senate.gov ^{(b)(6)}	a@thune.senate.gov; jordan.stoick@mail.house.gov;
Cc:(b)(6)	@who.eop.gov	<u>Dblackhillsfox.com; kyle_brosnan@hsgac.senate.gov;</u>
(1.) ((2))	lee.net	
Hello Mr. Sec		
I am sending		nform your office about the ^{(b)(6)}
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I am sending		nform your office about the (b)(6)

Thank you Mr. Secretary for your time and consideration!

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From: Cox, Gerard R. VHACO
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 8:38 AM
To: Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.; Young, Steven W.; Clancy, Carolyn; Czarnecki, Tammy; Bevins, Debi; Wright,
Vivieca (Simpson); Culpepper, Michael; Flanz, Meghan Serwin Cc: Prince-Wheeler, Latriece R.; Hyduke, Barbara; Rasmussen, Karen M.
Subject: FW: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)
b)(6)
Good morning to all,
FYI – OIG has decided to open an investigation into these allegations about the The Audit &
Evaluations Division will be doing the work.
In response to Dr. Alaigh's question (in a separate email string): yes, OIG would appreciate our sharing
the results of the review that (b)(6) We will
facilitate putting the VHA POC in contact with OIG.
Best regards,
Gerry
Gerard R. Cox, MD, MHA
Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Integrity (10E1)
Veterans Health Administration
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Room 638
Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7571
Gerard.cox@va.gov
Executive Assistant: Ms. Sharice Smith-Lewis (<u>sharice.smith-lewis@va.gov</u> or (202) 461-1758)
The Office of Integrity's mission is to strengthen trust and confidence in Veterans health care by
fostering an ethical and just culture and by integrating information from oversight activities.
_ (b)(6)
From (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 8:21 AM To: Cox, Gerard R. VHACO
Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)
D)(6)
We will be taking the case (b)(6) will reach out to Debi later today.
(b)(6)

To:(b)(6)	RE: Disclosure to President Trump
0)(6)	THE DISCLOSURE COTTOSIGNATION OF THE PROPERTY
	(AVC)
Thanks a	gain, (b)(6) I'll see you at Tech World at 10.
Gerry	
Gerard F	c. Cox, MD, MHA
	Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Integrity (10E1)
Votoran	Health Administration
	nont Avenue, NW
Room 63	
	ton, DC 20420
(202) 46	
	ox@va.gov
	ce of Integrity's mission is to strengthen trust and confidence in Veterans health care g an ethical and just culture and by integrating information from oversight activities.
From (b) Sent: T	an ethical and just culture and by integrating information from oversight activities. 6) nursday, February 23, 2017 8:31 AM
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S	(b)(6) Ibject: FW: Disclosure to President Trump
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Н	b)(6)
Tŀ	is came up at our morning meeting with the USH today. I was asked to follow up with OIG.
Αl	though it may be too early to say, can you tell me whether OIG plans to open a case in this matter
Tŀ	panks,
G	erry
G	erard R. Cox, MD, MHA
As	sistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Integrity (10E1)
Ve	eterans Health Administration
81	0 Vermont Avenue, NW
	oom 638
W	ashington, DC 20420
(2	02) 461-7571
G	erard.cox@va.gov
E>	ecutive Assistant: Ms. Sharice Smith-Lewis (sharice.smith-lewis@va.gov or (202) 461-1758)
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	Original Message
	rom (1970) ent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 05:22 PM Central Standard Time
	o: Bevins, Debi
	(OIG); Shulkin, David J., MD; Snyder, Robert; Culpepper, Michael;
	tutis, Matthew, MS; Wright, Vivieca (Simpson); Prince-Wheeler, Latriece R.; Flanz, Megh
	erwin; Alaigh, Poonam; Hyduke, Barbara; Sims. Adrian: Dale. Scott W.
31	thiect: RE: Disclosure to President Trump (10)(0)

(b)(6)

Inspector General Department of Veterans Affairs 810 Vermont Avenue, NW (50) Washington, DC 20420

E-mail:^{(b)(6)} Phone: Fax:

Webpage: www.va.gov/oig

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From: Bevins, Debi
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 3:13 PM
To [b)(6)
Cd ^{(b)(6)} OIG); Shulkin, David J., MD; Snyder, Robert; Culpepper, Michael; Eitutis, Matthew
MS; Wright, Vivieca (Simpson); Prince-Wheeler, Latriece R.; Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Bevins, Debi; Alaigh
Poonam; Hyduke, Barbara; Sims, Adrian; Dale, Scott W.
Subject: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Importance: High

(b)(6)	

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

If you can provide guidance on whether the OIG is/or should be engaged that would be great. Upon your response, we will determine next course of action in responding and fact finding. Thank you!

Debi Bevins

Director of Client Relations | Office of the Secretary (00V)
Department of Veterans Affairs | 810 Vermont Ave, NW
Room 1016 | Washington, DC 20420
T: 202-461-4830 | F: 202-495-5462

Fice of
Yient
Relations
Objective - Courteous - Respectful

From:(b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:11 PM
To(b)(6) who.eop.gov; Shulkin, David J., MD;(b)(6) @osc.gov
Cc: Adam_Reece@vetaff.senate.gov: Hodnette, Jon (Jon.Hodnette@mail.house.gov);
kyle_brosnan@hsgac.senate.gov (b)(6) Damvets.org (b)(6) Darmytimes.com (b)(6) Dcv4a.org;
(b)(6) plegion.org); betsy_dietz@isakson.senate.gov; brian_downey@hsgac.senate.gov;
contact@marcorubio.com; carolyn_moffa@paul.senate.gov; courtney_asbill@cruz.senate.gov;
(b)(6) @militarytimes.com; caroline.ingram@mail.house.gov∱(b)(6) @iava.org; (b)(6) @militarytimes.com; caroline.ingram@mail.house.gov∱(b)(6) @iava.org; (b)(6) @militarytimes.com; (c)(6) @militarytimes.com; (c)
$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$
(b)(6) vva.org); juliana.heerschap@mail.house.gov; keith_ashdown@hsgac.senate.gov;
kristen.shatynski@mail.house.gov; larry.brady@mail.house.gov proa.org;
(b)(6) studentveterans.org; laurel_saukai@vetaff.senate.gov; larry.brady@mail.house.gov;
(b)(6) @roa.org; mike.ricci@mail.house.gov(b)(6)
Subject: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)
(D)(O)
Importance: High
11. U. As. D 11. 1
Hello Mr. President:
I am sending this whistleblower disclosure to your office due to the urgent need for executive
intervention. VA is planning on declaring (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
b)(6)
It is for these reasons I have attached a formal request for your office to intervene in this matter.

Please feel free to contact me, if your office has any questions about this matter.

Thank you for your commitment to our Nation's Veterans!

Respectfully:

Fron ^{(b)(6)} Sent: Wednesday, December 28, 2016 4:02 PM Fo: Shulkin, David J., MD; Gibson, Sloan Cc: Young, Steven W.; Wright, Vivieca (Simpson); Jacobs, Joshua D.; Heiman, Ryan, MS; Field, Annette Subject: Heads Up: (b)(6)					
wanted to give	ood day leadership. wanted to give you a heads up on an important issue I just discovered today.				
b)(6)					
0)(6)					

(b)(6)	

Page 34 of 76

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(6)

Page 35 of 76

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(6)

Page 36 of 76

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(6)

Sent: 24 Feb 2017 08:38:28 -0500 Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.; Young, Steven W.; Clancy, Carolyn; Czarnecki, To: Tammy; Bevins, Debi; Wright, Vivieca (Simpson); Culpepper, Michael; Flanz, Meghan Serwin Cc: Prince-Wheeler, Latriece R.; Hyduke, Barbara; Rasmussen, Karen M. FW: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6) Subject: Good morning to all, FYI - OIG has decided to open an investigation into these allegations about the The Audit & Evaluations Division will be doing the work. In response to Dr. Alaigh's question (in a separate email string): yes, OIG would appreciate our sharing the results of the review tha (b)(6) conducted of a sample of the letters in question. We will facilitate putting the VHA POC in contact with OIG. Best regards, Gerry Gerard R. Cox, MD, MHA Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Integrity (10E1) Veterans Health Administration 810 Vermont Avenue, NW Room 638 Washington, DC 20420 (202) 461-7571

Cox, Gerard R. VHACO

From:

Gerard.cox@va.gov

Executive Assistant: Ms. Sharice Smith-Lewis (sharice.smith-lewis@va.gov or (202) 461-1758)

The Office of Integrity's mission is to strengthen trust and confidence in Veterans health care by fostering an ethical and just culture and by integrating information from oversight activities.

From (b)(6)	(OIG)	
	February 24, 2017 8:21	1 AM
To: Cox, Gera		
	Disclosure to President	t Trump (b)(6)
(b)(6)	Disclosure to Fresident	t Humpp
146 - 10 1 - 6 1 2	(b)(6)	n
We will be taki	ng the case	/ill reach out to Debi later toda
b)(6)		
5/(0)		
From: Cox. G	erard R. VHACO	
Sent Thursda		8:32 AM
To (b)(6)	(OIG)	
		t Trump (b)(6)
(b)(6)	Disclosure to President	t Hump
(0)(0)		
	(5.16)	
Thanks again,	l'il see you at	t Tech World at 10.
Gerry		
Gerard R. Cox	c MD. MHA	
	·, ···— , ···· · ·	

Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Integrity (10E1)

Veterans Health Administration 810 Vermont Avenue, NW Room 638 Washington, DC 20420 (202) 461-7571 Gerard.cox@va.gov Executive Assistant: Ms. Sharice Smith-Lewis (sharice.smith-lewis@va.gov or (202) 461-1758) The Office of Integrity's mission is to strengthen trust and confidence in Veterans health care by fostering an ethical and just culture and by integrating information from oversight activities. From (b)(6) (OIG) Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 8:31 AM To: Cox, Gerard R. VHACO Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump - (b)(6) (b)(6) I spoke with (b)(6) He was out of town yesterday. We will have a decision today. (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 4:54 PM To (OIG) Subject: RF: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)
Great – thanks (b)(6)
From (b)(6) (OIG) Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 4:50 PM To: Cox, Gerard R. VHACO Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)
Will get back to you by the AM.
From: Cox, Gerard R. VHACO Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 4:05 PM To DIG Subject: FW: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)
Hi (b)(6)
This came up at our morning meeting with the USH today. I was asked to follow up with OIG.
Although it may be too early to say, can you tell me whether OIG plans to open a case in this matter?
Thanks,

G	е	rr	V

Gerard R. Cox, MD, MHA

Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Integrity (10E1)

Veterans Health Administration

810 Vermont Avenue, NW

Room 638

Washington, DC 20420

(202) 461-7571

Gerard.cox@va.gov

Executive Assistant: Ms. Sharice Smith-Lewis (sharice.smith-lewis@va.gov or (202) 461-1758)

The Office of Integrity's mission is to strengthen trust and confidence in Veterans health care by fostering an ethical and just culture and by integrating information from oversight activities.

O <u>riginal Message</u>
From (OIG)
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 05:22 PM Central Standard Time
To: Bevins, Debi
Cc: (D)(6) (OIG); Shulkin, David J., MD; Snyder, Robert; Culpepper
Michael; Eitutis, Matthew, MS; Wright, Vivieca (Simpson); Prince-Wheeler,
Latriece R.; Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Alaigh, Poonam; Hyduke, Barbara; Sims,
Adrian; Dale, Scott W.
Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)
b)(6)

Ms. Bevins, thanks for the e-mail. We are in the process of reviewing (b)(6) allegations and will let you know. Please let me know if you have any questions in the interim.

(k	0)(6)					
	Inspect	or General				
	Departi	ment of Vetera	ns .	Affai	irs	
	810 Ve	rmont Avenue,	N١	N (5	0)	
	Washin	gton, DC 2042	20			
	E-mail:	(b)(6)				
	Phone:					
	Fax:					

Webpage: www.va.gov/oig

cid:image001.png@01D1E801.4AA4F130This e-mail message and all attachments may contain confidential information intended solely for the addressee(s). If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any reading, dissemination, distribution, copying, forwarding or other use of this message or its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete this message and all copies and backups thereof.

From: Bevins, Debi Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 3:13 PM To (b)(6) (OIG) Cd(b)(6) DIG); Shulkin, David J., MD; Snyder, Robert; Culpepper, Michael; Eitutis, Matthew, MS; Wright, Vivieca (Simpson); Prince-Wheeler, Latriece R.; Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Bevins, Debi; Alaigh, Poonam; Hyduke, Barbara; Sims, Adrian; Dale, Scott W. Subject: Disclosure to President Trump Importance: High

	. If you can provide guidance should be engaged that would be great. Upon your ine next course of action in responding and fact finding
Debí Bevins	
	IOE f th - Ct (00) ()
Director of Client Relatio	ns juffice of the Secretary (UUV)
	Affairs 810 Vermont Ave, NW
	Affairs 810 Vermont Ave, NW

(b)(6)
Fron HEC
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2:11 PM
To(b)(6) 2who.eop.gov; Shulkin, David J., MD(c)(6) 2osc.gov
Cc:Adam_Reece@vetaff.senate.gov; Hodnette, Jon
(.lon Hodnette@mail.house.gov); kyle brosnan@hsgac.senate.gov;
<u> </u>
©legion.org); betsy_dietz@isakson.senate.gov;
brian_downey@hsgac.senate.gov; contact@marcorubio.com;
carolyn moffa@paul.senate.gov; courtney asbill@cruz.senate.gov;
(b)(6) militarytimes.com; caroline.ingram@mail.house.gov(b)(6)
(b)(6) @iava.org;(b)(6) @disabledveterans.org(b)(6) @cv4a.org;
(b)(6) Degion.org(b)(6) (OIG)(b)(6) pva.org;
(b)(6) @vva.org;(b)(6) @vva.org);(b)(6)
(b)(6) vva.org); juliana.heerschap@mail.house.gov;
keitn_asndown@hsgac.senate.gov; kristen.shatvnski@mail.house.gov;
larry.brady@mail.house.gov
laurel_saukai@vetaff.senate.gov; larry.brady@mail.house.gov(b)(6) 2/202.org;
mike.ricci@mail.house.gov;(b)(6)
Subject: Disclosure to President Trump (5)(6)

Importance	e: High		_		
•	3				
Hello Mr. F	^o resident:				
I am sendi	ng this whistlet ve intervention	lower disclosu	re to your offic	e due to the ur	gent need
for executi	ve intervention	(D)(b)			
(b)(6)					
)(6)					

	It is for these reasons I have attached a formal request for your office to intervene in this matter.
	Please feel free to contact me, if your office has any questions about this matter.
	Thank you for your commitment to our Nation's Veterans!
	Respectfully:
(k	VA Whistleblower
	From: HRC Sent: Wednesday, December 28, 2016 4:02 PM To: Shulkin, David J., MD; Gibson, Sloan Cc: Young, Steven W.; Wright, Vivieca (Simpson); Jacobs, Joshua D.; Heiman, Ryan, MS; Field, Annette Subject: Heads Up: (b)(6)
	Good day leadership.
	I wanted to give you a heads up on an important issue I just discovered today.
(b	9(6)

(b)(6)		

Alaigh, Poonam, M.D. From: Sent: 23 Feb 2017 20:02:34 -0500

Cox, Gerard R. VHACO; Young, Steven W. To:

Cc: Clancy, Carolyn

RE: Disclosure to President Trump Subject:

(b)(6)

That's fine - but I still want a briefing/update, including the Comms plan on this if possible tomorrow or Monday

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

----Original Message----

From: Cox, Gerard R. VHACO

Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 06:59 PM Central Standard Time

To: Young, Steven W.; Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.

Cc: Clancy, Carolyn

Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)

(b)(6)

I agree with Steve. The basic principle here is the added validity of independent, objective review such as that which OIG would provide. For maximum credibility, we should not rely upon VHA program offices looking at themselves. That was one of GAO's main criticisms when they placed VA on the High Risk List two years ago.

Gerry

Gerard R. Cox, MD, MHA Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Integrity Veterans Health Administration U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

----Original Message----From: Young, Steven W.

Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 07:55 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.; Cox, Gerard R. VHACO.

Subject. RF. Disclosure to President Trump

I understand that the OIG is opening an investigation. (I don't know how they couldn't based on the visibility). I think it is worth sharing the internal review; they will get that anyway with their investigation.

I'm not one to typically say it is good for the OIG to be involved, but in this instance I think their independent eyes will either validate what we understand to be the case or they will uncover malfeasance which we need to know for both accountability with the staff as well as simply doing right by these veterans.

Sent with Good (www.good.com)
Original Message From: Alaigh, Poonam, M.D. Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 04:48 PM Pacific Standard Time To: Cox, Gerard R. VHACO; Young, Steven W. Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)
Yes- Steve, what do you think
Sent with Good (www.good.com)
Original Message From: Cox, Gerard R. VHACO Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 06:46 PM Central Standard Time To: Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.; Young, Steven W. Cc: Mancari, Ryan; Hyduke, Barbara [b)(6)
Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump Good evening again,
I will offer that in the AM. Are you referring to the "findings" of the self audit that conducted in a sample of the letters in question?
Gerry

Gerard R. Cox, MD, MHA Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Integrity Veterans Health Administration U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Original Message
From: Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 07:37 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Cox, Gerard R. VHACO; Young, Steven W.
Cc: Mancari, Ryan; Hyduke, Barbara
Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump
(6)(6)
Is it worth getting a call together to let him know our findings
Sent with Good (www.good.com)
Original Message
From: Cox, Gerard R. VHACO
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 06:35 PM Central Standard Time
To: Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.; Young, Steven W.
Cc: Mancari, Ryan; Hyduke, Barbara
Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Good evening,
I will let you know in the morning whether QIG has decided whether to take this case. The OIG COS had indicated tha would make a decision today, and I spoke
The OIG COS had indicated tha would make a decision today, and I spoke
about this with her in person when I was at their offices this morning - but as of now I still have not received word.

Gerard R. Cox, MD, MHA Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Integrity Veterans Health Administration U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

----Original Message----

Thanks again,

Gerry

From: Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.

Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 07:20 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: Cox, Gerard R. VHACO; Young, Steven W.

Cc: Mancari, Ryan; Hyduke, Barbara

Subject: FW: Disclosure to President Trump - (0)(6)
(b)(6)
Can we add this too to the agenda please
Sent with Good (www.good.com)
Original Message From: Bevins, Debi Sent: Thursdav. February 23, 2017 02:33 PM Central Standard Time To (OIG)
Cc: Eitutis, Matthew, MS; Culpepper, Michael; Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.; Sims, Adrian; Hyduke, Barbara; Bevins, Debi Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)
(b)(6)
(b)(6)
(6)
Debi Bevins
Director of Client Relations Office of the Secretary (00V)
Department of Veterans Affairs 810 Vermont Ave, NW
Room 1016 Washington, DC 20420

T: 202-461-4830 | F: 202-495-5462

	From ^{(b)(6)} (OIG)
	Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 3:23 PM
	To: Bevins, Debi
	Cc (OIG); Shulkin, David J., MD; Snyder, Robert; Culpepper,
	Michael; Eitutis, Matthew, MS; Wright, Vivieca (Simpson); Prince-Wheeler, Latriece R.
	Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.; Hyduke, Barbara; Sims, Adrian; Dale,
	Scott W.
	Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)
((b)(6)
L	
	Ms. Bevins, we will be reviewing allegations. Please let me know if the
	Department intends to take any further steps at this time. Thanks for your consideration.
	Department intends to take any further steps at this time. Thanks for your consideration.
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D)(U)	
	Inspector General
	Thispector General
	Donartment of Veterana Affaire
	Department of Veterans Affairs
	910 Vormant Avanua NW (50)
	810 Vermont Avenue, NW (50)
	Washington DC 20420
	Washington, DC 20420
(b)(6	3)

Webpage: www.va.gov/oig

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From: Bevins, Debi
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 9:40 AM To (b)(6) OIG)
Cc (b)(6) OIG); Shulkin, David J., MD; Snyder, Robert; Culpepper,
Michael; Eitutis, Matthew, MS; Wright, Vivieca (Simpson); Prince-Wheeler, Latriece R.;
Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.; Hyduke, Barbara; Sims, Adrian; Dale,
Scott W.; Bevins, Debi
Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump
(a)(a)
(b)(6)
There was an article in our clips this AM about this matter thanks for your guidance
(b)(6)

(b)(6)	
	Debi Bevins
	Director of Client Relations Office of the Secretary (00V)
	Department of Veterans Affairs 810 Vermont Ave, NW
	Room 1016 Washington, DC 20420
	T: 202-461-4830 F: 202-495-5462
	(b)(6)
	From DIG) Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 6:22 PM
	To Revine Debi
	Cc (OIG); Shulkin, David J., MD; Snyder, Robert; Culpepper,
	Michael; Eitutis, Matthew, MS; Wright, Vivieca (Simpson); Prince-Wheeler, Latriece R.;
	Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Alaigh, Poonam; Hyduke, Barbara; Sims, Adrian; Dale, Scott W. Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump
(1	b)(6)
L	
	Ms. Bevins, thanks for the e-mail. We are in the process of reviewing (b)(6)
	allegations and will let you know. Please let me know if you have any questions in the
	interim.

Department of Veterans Affairs 810 Vermont Avenue, NW (50) Washington, DC 20420 Webpage: www.va.gov/oig This e-mail message and all attachments may contain confidential information intends solely for the addressee(s). If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, are hereby notified that any reading, dissemination, distribution, copying, forwarding other use of this message or its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete this message and all copies and backups thereof. From: Bevins, Debi Sent-Tuesday February 21, 2017 3:13 PM Tolois (OIG) Cc (OIG) OIG); Shulkin, David J., MD; Snyder, Robert; Culpepper, Michael; Eitutis, Matthew, MS; Wright, Vivicea (Simpson); Prince-Wheeler, Latriece Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Bevins, Debi; Alaigh, Poonam; Hyduke, Barbara; Sims, Adria Dale, Scott W.	Inspector General	
Webpage: www.va.gov/oig This e-mail message and all attachments may contain confidential information intends solely for the addressee(s). If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, are hereby notified that any reading, dissemination, distribution, copying, forwarding other use of this message or its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete this message and all copies and backups thereof. From: Bevins, Debi Sent: Tuesday February 21, 2017 3:13 PM Toleigo OIG; Shulkin, David J., MD; Snyder, Robert; Culpepper, Michael; Eitutis, Matthew, MS; Wright, Vivieca (Simpson); Prince-Wheeler, Latriece Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Bevins, Debi; Alaigh, Poonam; Hyduke, Barbara; Sims, Adria Dale, Scott W.	Department of Ve	terans Affairs
Webpage: www.va.gov/oig This e-mail message and all attachments may contain confidential information intends solely for the addressee(s). If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, are hereby notified that any reading, dissemination, distribution, copying, forwarding other use of this message or its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete this message and all copies and backups thereof. From: Bevins, Debi Sent: Tuesday February 21, 2017 3:13 PM Totologic OIG) OIG) Cc OIG); Shulkin, David J., MD; Snyder, Robert; Culpepper, Michael; Eitutis, Matthew, MS; Wright, Vivieca (Simpson); Prince-Wheeler, Latriece Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Bevins, Debi; Alaigh, Poonam; Hyduke, Barbara; Sims, Adria Dale, Scott W.	810 Vermont Ave	nue, NW (50)
Webpage: www.va.gov/oig This e-mail message and all attachments may contain confidential information intends solely for the addressee(s). If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, are hereby notified that any reading, dissemination, distribution, copying, forwarding other use of this message or its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete this message and all copies and backups thereof. From: Bevins, Debi Sent: Tuesday February 21, 2017 3:13 PM Toleigo (OIG) Coleigo (OIG) Toleigo (OIG) Coleigo (OIG) Shulkin, David J., MD; Snyder, Robert; Culpepper, Michael; Eitutis, Matthew, MS; Wright, Vivieca (Simpson); Prince-Wheeler, Latriece Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Bevins, Debi; Alaigh, Poonam; Hyduke, Barbara; Sims, Adria Dale, Scott W.	Washington, DC	20420
Webpage: www.va.gov/oig This e-mail message and all attachments may contain confidential information intends solely for the addressee(s). If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, are hereby notified that any reading, dissemination, distribution, copying, forwarding other use of this message or its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete this message and all copies and backups thereof. From: Bevins, Debi Sept: Tuesday February 21, 2017 3:13 PM Toleofo (OIG) Coleofo OIG); Shulkin, David J., MD; Snyder, Robert; Culpepper, Michael; Eitutis, Matthew, MS; Wright, Vivieca (Simpson); Prince-Wheeler, Latriece Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Bevins, Debi; Alaigh, Poonam; Hyduke, Barbara; Sims, Adria Dale, Scott W.		
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solely for the addressee(s). If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, are hereby notified that any reading, dissemination, distribution, copying, forwarding other use of this message or its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete this message and all copies and backups thereof. From: Bevins, Debi Sent: Tuesday February 21, 2017 3:13 PM Td (OIG) (OIG) (OIG) Cc OIG); Shulkin, David J., MD; Snyder, Robert; Culpepper, Michael; Eitutis, Matthew, MS; Wright, Vivieca (Simpson); Prince-Wheeler, Latriece Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Bevins, Debi; Alaigh, Poonam; Hyduke, Barbara; Sims, Adria Dale, Scott W.		
Sent: Tuesday February 21, 2017 3:13 PM Td (OIG) (OIG) Cc (Dividition of the content of the		
Sent: Tuesday February 21, 2017 3:13 PM Td (OIG) (OIG) (Cc (b)(6) (Dig)	This e-mail messa solely for the addr are hereby notified other use of this n message in error,	ge and all attachments may contain confidential information intended essee(s). If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you I that any reading, dissemination, distribution, copying, forwarding or essage or its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you received this blease notify the sender immediately and delete this message and all
Cc OIG); Shulkin, David J., MD; Snyder, Robert; Culpepper, Michael; Eitutis, Matthew, MS; Wright, Vivieca (Simpson); Prince-Wheeler, Latriece Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Bevins, Debi; Alaigh, Poonam; Hyduke, Barbara; Sims, Adria Dale, Scott W.	This e-mail messa solely for the addr are hereby notified other use of this n message in error, copies and backup	ge and all attachments may contain confidential information intended essee(s). If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you I that any reading, dissemination, distribution, copying, forwarding or lessage or its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you received this blease notify the sender immediately and delete this message and all s thereof.
Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Bevins, Debi; Alaigh, Poonam; Hyduke, Barbara; Sims, Adria Dale, Scott W.	This e-mail messas solely for the addrare hereby notified other use of this message in error, copies and backup. From: Bevins, Descrit-Tuesday. February 1986.	ge and all attachments may contain confidential information intended essee(s). If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you that any reading, dissemination, distribution, copying, forwarding or ressage or its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you received this blease notify the sender immediately and delete this message and all s thereof.
Dale, Scott W.	This e-mail messas solely for the addrage hereby notified other use of this message in error, copies and backup From: Bevins, Description of the sent truesday for the sent tru	ge and all attachments may contain confidential information intended essee(s). If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you that any reading, dissemination, distribution, copying, forwarding or sessage or its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you received this blease notify the sender immediately and delete this message and all sthereof. bit http://doi.org/10.1007/j.eps.2017.3:13 PM (OIG)
Subjects Disclosure to Bresident Transmission	This e-mail messa solely for the addrare hereby notified other use of this message in error, copies and backup. From: Bevins, Description of the copies and backup.	ge and all attachments may contain confidential information intended essee(s). If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you that any reading, dissemination, distribution, copying, forwarding or ressage or its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you received this blease notify the sender immediately and delete this message and all sthereof. bit https://doi.org/10.1016/j.j.php.j.j.j.j.j.j.j.j.j.j.j.j.j.j.j.j.
Subject: Disclosure to President Trump	This e-mail messas solely for the addrare hereby notified other use of this message in error, copies and backup. From: Bevins, Description of the copies and backup.	ge and all attachments may contain confidential information intended essee(s). If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you that any reading, dissemination, distribution, copying, forwarding or ressage or its attachments is strictly prohibited. If you received this blease notify the sender immediately and delete this message and all sthereof. bit https://doi.org/10.1016/j.com/10.1016/
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(b)(6)	
b)(6)	If you can provide guidance on whether the OIG
is/or should be engaged that would course of action in responding and t	be great. Upon your response, we will determine next fact finding. Thank you!
Debi Bevins	
Director of Client Relations Office	of the Secretary (00V)
Department of Veterans Affairs 81	0 Vermont Ave, NW
Room 1016 Washington, DC 204	20
T: 202-461-4830 F: 202-495-546	52
[a.vov	
From (b)(6)	0.122
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 2	
	gov; Shulkin, David J., MD (b)(6) @osc.gov
	vy; Hodnette, Jon (Jon.Hodnette@mail.house.gov);
kyle brosnan@hsgac.senate.gov(b)(6) (b)(6) cv4a.org(b)(6)	(b)(6) @armytimes.com; (a)(a)(b)(6) @armytimes.com; (a)(a)(a)(a)(b)(b)(b)(b)(c)(a)(a)(a)(a)(a)(a)(a)(a)(a)(a)(a)(a)(a)
betsy dietz@isakson.senate.gov; br	
contact@marcorubio.com; carolyn	
courtney asbill@cruz.senate.gov (b)	
caroline.ingram@mail.house.gov	(6) @iava.org;
(b)(6) disabledveterans.org(b)(i	6) @cv4a.org(b)(6) @legion.org;(b)(6)
(VFW); $(b)(6)$ OIG $(b)(6)$	pva.org (b)(6) avva.org (b)(6)
(b)(6) $(b)(6)$	wva.org):
juliana.heerschap@mail.house.gov;	keith ashdown@hsgac.senate gov
<u>kristen.shatynski(a)mail.house.gov;</u>	larry.brady(a)mail.house.gov; a)roa.org;
(b)(6) studentveterans.org; laure	
larry.brady@mail.house.gov(b)(6)	@roa.org; mike.ricci@mail.house.gov; Campos,

Importance: High

Subject: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)

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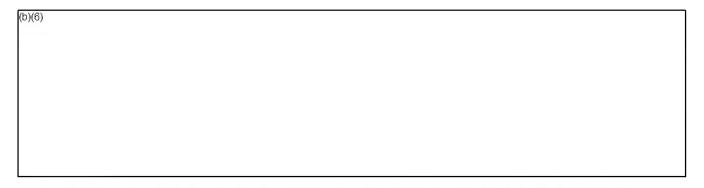
Page 56 of 76

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(6)

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

	Please feel free to contact me, if your office has any questions about this matter.
	Thank you for your commitment to our Nation's Veterans!
	Respectfully:
(b)(6	
	From (b)(6) Sent: Wednesday, December 28, 2016 4:02 PM To: Shulkin, David J., MD; Gibson, Sloan Cc: Young, Steven W.; Wright, Vivieca (Simpson); Jacobs, Joshua D.; Heiman, Ryan, MS; Field, Annette Subject: Heads Up (b)(6)
	Good day leadership.
	I wanted to give you a heads up on an important issue I just discovered today.



No action was taken by any of the leaders that were notified in the email from September.

Most recently, December 2016, the same employee rais

Attachments:

image001.jpg@01D28DE9.CE530790 (3538 Bytes) image002.png@01D28DE9.CE530790 (10859 Bytes) image003.jpg@01D28DE9.CE530790 (3539 Bytes) image004.jpg@01D28DE9.CE530790 (3538 Bytes)

Alaigh, Poonam, M.D. From: Sent: 23 Feb 2017 20:02:34 -0500

Cox, Gerard R. VHACO; Young, Steven W. To:

Cc: Clancy, Carolyn

RE: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6) Subject:

(b)(6)

That's fine - but I still want a briefing/update, including the Comms plan on this if possible tomorrow or Monday

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

----Original Message----

From: Cox, Gerard R. VHACO

Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 06:59 PM Central Standard Time

To: Young, Steven W.; Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.

Ce: Clancy, Carolyn

Subject: RF: Disclosure to President Trump - (b)(6)

I agree with Steve. The basic principle here is the added validity of independent, objective review such as that which OIG would provide. For maximum credibility, we should not rely upon VHA program offices looking at themselves. That was one of GAO's main criticisms when they placed VA on the High Risk List two years ago.

Gerry

Gerard R. Cox, MD, MHA Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Integrity Veterans Health Administration U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

----Original Message----From: Young, Steven W.

Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 07:55 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.; Cox, Gerard R. VHACO

Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump

I understand that the OIG is opening an investigation. (I don't know how they couldn't based on the visibility). I think it is worth sharing the internal review; they will get that anyway with their investigation.

I'm not one to typically say it is good for the OIG to be involved, but in this instance I think their independent eyes will either validate what we understand to be the case or they will uncover malfeasance which we need to know for both accountability with the staff as well as simply doing right by these veterans.

Sent with Good (www.good.com)
Original Message From: Alaigh, Poonam, M.D. Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 04:48 PM Pacific Standard Time To: Cox, Gerard R. VHACO; Young, Steven W. Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)
Yes- Steve, what do you think
Sent with Good (www.good.com)
Original Message From: Cox, Gerard R. VHACO Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 06:46 PM Central Standard Time To: Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.; Young, Steven W. Cc: Mancari, Ryan; Hyduke, Barbara
Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)
Good evening again, I will offer that in the AM. Are you referring to the "findings" of the self audit that conducted in a sample of the letters in question?
Gerry

Gerard R. Cox, MD, MHA Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Integrity Veterans Health Administration U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

-1/01	Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)
b)(6)	
Is it worth ge	tting a call together to let him know our findings
Sent with Go	od (www.good.com)
Original	
,	Gerard R. VHACO ay, February 23, 2017 06:35 PM Central Standard Time
	Poonam, M.D.; Young, Steven W.
	Ryan; Hyduke, Barbara (b)(6)
Subject: RE:	Disclosure to President Trump - (10)(0)
Good evening	
Good evening	3,
COS had ind	know in the morning whether OIG has decided whether to take this case. The Olicated that ould make a decision today, and I spoke about this with en I was at their offices this morning - but as of now I still have not received wor
Thanks again	
Gerry	,
	ND NUL
	ox, MD, MHA outy Under Secretary for Health for Integrity
	olty Older Secretary for Health for Integrity
U.S. Departn	nent of Veterans Affairs
Original	Message
From: Alaig	h, Poonam, M.D.
	ay, February 23, 2017 07:20 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Cox Get	ard R. VHACO; Young, Steven W.
	Ryan; Hyduke, Barbara

(b)(6)
Can we add this too to the agenda please
Sent with Good (www.good.com)
Original Message From: Bevins, Debi Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 02:33 PM Central Standard Time To: [D)(6) Cc: Eitutis, Matthew, MS; Culpepper, Michael; Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.; Sims, Adrian; Hyduke, Barbara; Bevins, Debi Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump [D)(6)
b)(6)
I have narrowed the participants in the email to determine what other agency dept. should be taking the lead at looking into a fact finding on the allegations. (b)(6) which falls under VHA therefore seek their guidance as to course of action for fact finding. Thanks! Debi Bevins
Director of Client Relations Office of the Secretary (00V)
Department of Veterans Affairs 810 Vermont Ave, NW Room 1016 Washington, DC 20420
T: 202-461-4830 F: 202-495-5462
Cont Plations Objective - Courteous - Respectful
From (b)(6) DIG)
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 3:23 PM
To: Bevins, Debi Cc: (D)(6) OIG); Shulkin, David J., MD; Snyder, Robert; Culpepper, Michael; Eitutis, Matthew, MS; Wright, Vivieca (Simpson); Prince-Wheeler, Latriece R.; Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.; Hyduke, Barbara; Sims, Adrian; Dale, Scott W.
Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump - (b)(6)
(b)(6)

Ms. Bevins, we will be reviewing (b)(6) allegations. Please let me know if the Department intends to take any further steps at this time. Thanks for your consideration.

(b)(6)	
Inspector Genera	
Department of V	
810 Vermont Av	
Washington, DC	20420
E-mail:(b)(6)	
Phone:	
Fax:	
Webpage: www	vva govloig
webpage. www	.va.gov/oig
E E	
HUNDE	
This e-	-mail message and all attachments may contain confidential information intended solely
for the addresse	e(s). If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified
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attachments is s	trictly prohibited. If you received this message in error, please notify the sender
immediately and	delete this message and all copies and backups thereof.
Poonam, M.D.; I	Vright, Vivieca (Simpson); Prince-Wheeler, Latriece R.; Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Alaigh, Hyduke, Barbara; Sims, Adrian: <u>Dale. Scott W.: Bevins. Debi</u> isclosure to President Trump (b)(6)
(b)(6)	
b)(6)	
0)(6)	
There was an a	rticle in our clips this AM about this matter thanks for your guidance
	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
6)	

3)	
'1	
D.I.D.	
Debi Bevins	
Director of Client Relations Office of the Secretary (00V)	
Department of Veterans Affairs 810 Vermont Ave, NW	
Room 1016 Washington, DC 20420	
T: 202-461-4830 F: 202-495-5462	
Office of	
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Celations	
Objective - Courteous - Respectful	
ogeth contons acquiring	
(h)(6)	
Fron ^{(b)(6)} (OIG)	
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 6:22 PM	
To: Bevins, Debi	
Ccs(b)(6) (OIG); Shulkin, David J., MD; Snyder, Robert; Culpeppe	
Matthew, MS; Wright, Vivieca (Simpson); Prince-Wheeler, Latriece R.; Flanz,	Meghan Serwin; Alaigh,
Poonam; Hyduke, Barbara; Sims, Adrian; Da <u>le, Scott W.</u>	
Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump(b)(6)	<u> </u>
b)(6)	
Ms. Bevins, thanks for the e-mail. We are in the process of reviewing (b)(6)	allegations and will let
you know. Please let me know if you have any questions in the interim.	anegations and will let
you know. Please let me know if you have any questions in the interim.	
0)(6)	
5)(0)	
Inspector General	
Department of Veterans Affairs	
810 Vermont Avenue, NW (50)	
Washington, DC 20420	
(6)(2)	
E-mail (b)(6)	
Phone.	
Fax:	

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From: Bevins, Debi	21 2017 2:12 DM
Td ^{(b)(6)}	цагу 21, 2017 3:13 PM
Cc(b)(6)	_ (OIG) OIG); Shulkin, David J., MD; Snyder, Robert; Culpepper, Michael; Eitutis,
	t, Vivieca (Simpson); Prince-Wheeler, Latriece R.; Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Bevins,
	n; Hyduke, Barbara; Sims, Adrian; Dale, Scott W.
Subject: Disclosure	
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Importance: High	
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(6)	
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0)(6)	If you can provide guidance on whether the OIG is/or should be
0 0	be great. Upon your response, we will determine next course of action in
responding and fac	t finding. Thank you!
Debi Bevins	
	elations Office of the Secretary (00V)
	erans Affairs 810 Vermont Ave, NW
Room 1016 Was	
T: 202-461-4830	F: 202-495-5462
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Delations	
77	
Objective - Courteous - F	tespectful
From ^{(b)(6)} (b)	(6)
Sent: Tuesday Febr	ruary 21, 2017 2:11 PM
To ^{(b)(6)}	@who.eop.gov; Shulkin, David J., MD(b)(6) @osc.gov
	etalf.senate.gov; Hodnette, Jon (Jon.Hodnette@mail.house.gov);
kyle_brosnan@hsgad	
(b)(6)	@legion.org); betsy_dietz@isakson.senate.gov;
	ic.senate.gov; contact@marcorubio.com; carolyn_moffa@paul.senate.gov;
courtney asbill@cruz	
Verna; (b)(6) @ia	ava.org (b)(6) Ddisabledveterans.org (b)(6) Qcv4a.org (b)(6) Qlegion.org
(b)(6)	(OIG); (b)(6) pya.org (b)(6) @vva.org (b)(6)

)(6)	vva.org); (b)(6) @vva.org); juliana.heerschap@mail.house.gov; shdown@hsgac.senate.gov; kristen.shatynski@mail.house.gov; larry.brady@mail.house.gov @roa.org; (b)(6) @studentveterans.org; laurel saukai@vetaff.senate.gov;	<u>/;</u>
	ady@mail.house.gov(b)(6) @roa.org; mike.ricci@mail.house.gov; Campos, Rene t: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)	
)(6)		
Impo	tance: High	
lello I	. President:	
5)		
is fo	these reasons I have attached a formal request for your office to intervene in this matter.	
lease	eel free to contact me, if your office has any questions about this matter.	
hank	ou for your commitment to our Nation's Veterans!	
lespe	fully:	
cope		
()		
i)		
i)		
)(6)	
From	HRC Vednesday December 28, 2016 4:02 PM	
From Sent:	HRC Vednesday, December 28, 2016 4:02 PM ulkin, David J., MD; Gibson, Sloan	

wanted to give vo	ou a heads up on	an important i	ssue Liust disco	vered today	
	a a ricado ap orr	arr importante is		verea today.	
)					

(b)(6)

From: Cox, Gerard R. VHACO
Sent: 23 Feb 2017 19:59:55 -0500

To: Young, Steven W.; Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.

Cc: Clancy, Carolyn

Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)

(b)(6)

I agree with Steve. The basic principle here is the added validity of independent, objective review such as that which OIG would provide. For maximum credibility, we should not rely upon VHA program offices looking at themselves. That was one of GAO's main criticisms when they placed VA on the High Risk List two years ago.

Gerry

Gerard R. Cox, MD, MHA Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Integrity Veterans Health Administration U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

----Original Message----From: Young, Steven W.

Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 07:55 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.; Cox, Gerard R. VHACO

Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)

(b)(6)

I understand that the OIG is opening an investigation. (I don't know how they couldn't based on the visibility). I think it is worth sharing the internal review; they will get that anyway with their investigation.

I'm not one to typically say it is good for the OIG to be involved, but in this instance I think their independent eyes will either validate what we understand to be the case or they will uncover malfeasance which we need to know for both accountability with the staff as well as simply doing right by these veterans.

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----From: Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.

Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 04:48 PM Pacific Standard Time

To: Cox, Gerard R. VHACO; Young, Steven W.

Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)

(b)(6)
Yes- Steve, what do you think
Sent with Good (www.good.com)
Original Message From: Cox, Gerard R. VHACO Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 06:46 PM Central Standard Time To: Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.; Young, Steven W. Cc: Mancari, Ryan; Hyduke, Barbara Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump
(b)(6)
Good evening again, I will offer that in the AM. Are you referring to the "findings" of the self audit that (b)(6) onducted in a sample of the letters in question? Gerry
Geny
Gerard R. Cox, MD, MHA Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Integrity Veterans Health Administration U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Original Message From: Alaigh, Poonam, M.D. Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 07:37 PM Eastern Standard Time To: Cox, Gerard R. VHACO; Young, Steven W.
Cc: Mancari, Ryan; Hyduke, Barbara Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)

Is it worth getting a call together to let him know our findings

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

From: Sent: T To: Al	iginal Message Cox, Gerard R. VHACO Thursday, February 23, 2017 06:35 PM Central Standard Time aigh, Poonam, M.D.; Young, Steven W.
	ancari, Ryan; Hyduke, Barbara et: RE: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)
	evening,
COS ha	et you know in the morning whether OIG has decided whether to take this case. The OIG ad indicated tha would make a decision today, and I spoke about this with he on when I was at their offices this morning - but as of now I still have not received word.
Thanks Gerry	s again,
Assista Veterai	R. Cox, MD, MHA ont Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Integrity ons Health Administration epartment of Veterans Affairs
From: Sent: To: Co Cc: Ma	iginal Message Alaigh, Poonam, M.D. Thursday, February 23, 2017 07:20 PM Eastern Standard Time ox, Gerard R. VHACO; Young, Steven W. ancari, Ryan; Hyduke, Barbara
Subiec (b)(6)	t: FW: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)
Can we	e add this too to the agenda please
Sent w	ith Good (www.good.com)
From: Sent: 7 To: (b)(6) Cc: Eit Sims, A	iginal Message Bevins, Debi Thursday, February 23, 2017 02:33 PM Central Standard Time OGG OIG) tutis, Matthew, MS; Culpepper, Michael; Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Alaigh, Poonam, M.D.: Adrian; Hyduke, Barbara; Bevins, Debi et: RE: Disclosure to President Trump -

(b)(6)	
(b)(6)	
(4)(4)	
taking the lead at looking in	rants in the email to determine what other agency dept. should be to a fact finding on the allegations (b)(6) /hich eek their guidance as to course of action for fact finding. Thanks!
Debi Bevins Director of Client Relations Department of Veterans Aff Room 1016 Washington,	
T: 202-461-4830 F: 202-4	
From (b)(6) (OIG Sent: Thursday, February 23, To: Revins Debi Cc (DIG); St Matthew, MS; Wright, Vivieca	
Poonam, M.D.; Hyduke, Barba	ra; Sims, Adrian; Dale, Scott W.
Subject: RE: Disclosure to Pro(b)(6)	esident Trump - (b)(6)
Ms. Bevins, we will be reviewir take any further steps at this ti	ellegations. Please let me know if the Department intends to me. Thanks for your consideration.
(b)(6)	
Inspector General	
Department of Veterans Affair	S
810 Vermont Avenue, NW (50)	
Washington, DC 20420	
E-mail: ^{(b)(6)} Phone:	

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Fax:

Webpage: www.va.gov/oig

om: Bevins, Debi nt: Thursday, February 23, 2017 9:40	AM
(b)(6) (OIG)	
` '	id J., MD; Snyder, Robert; Culpepper, Michael; Eitutis,
	Prince-Wheeler, Latriece R.; Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Alaigh,
oonam, M.D.; Hyduke, Barbara; Sims, Ad	drian: Dale, Scott W.: Bevins, Debi
ubject: RE: Disclosure to President Trui	Imp { ^{(b)(6)}
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(b)(6)	
Debi Bevins	
Director of Client Relations Office of the Secretary (00V)	
Department of Veterans Affairs 810 Vermont Ave, NW	
Room 1016 Washington, DC 20420	
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From (b)(6) , (OIG)	
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 6:22 PM	
To: Bevins, Debi	
Cc (b)(6) OIG); Shulkin, David J., MD; Snyder, Robert; Culpepper, Michael Matthew, MS; Wright, Vivieca (Simpson); Prince-Wheeler, Latriece R.; Flanz, Meghan	
Poonam; Hyduke, Barbara; Sims, Adrian; Dale, Scott W	Serwin; Alaign,
Subject: RE: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)	
(b)(6)	
Ms. Bevins, thanks for the e-mail. We are in the process of reviewing (b)(6)	ations and will let
you know. Please let me know if you have any questions in the interim.	
(b)(6)	
Inspector General	
Department of Veterans Affairs	
810 Vermont Avenue, NW (50)	
Washington, DC 20420	
E-mai ^{(b)(6)}	
Phone	
Fax:	
Webpage: www.va.gov/oig	

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From: Bevins, Debi	
Sent: Tuesday, February	
To:(b)(6) (b)(6)	
CC1(OI	G); Shulkin, David J., MD; Snyder, Robert; Culpepper, Michael; Eitutis,
	vieca (Simpson); Prince-Wheeler, Latriece R.; Flanz, Meghan Serwin; Bevins,
	yduke, Barbara; Sims. Adrian: Dale. Scott W.
Subject: Disclosure to P	resident Trump ((b)(6)
(b)(6)	
Importance: High	
(b)(6)	
(5)(0)	
b)(6)	
(b)(6)	If you can provide guidance on whether the OIG is/or should be
engaged that would be	great. Upon your response, we will determine next course of action in
responding and fact fin	
responding and race in	ding. Thank you:
Dahi Davina	
Debi Bevins	
Director of Client Relati	ions Office of the Secretary (00V)
Department of Veteran	s Affairs 810 Vermont Ave, NW
Room 1016 Washing	ton, DC 20420
T: 202-461-4830 F: 2	
1. 202-401-4830 1.2	102-433-3402
Vient Relations	
Objective - Courteous - Respec	etful
From (b)(6) HEC	
Sent: Tuesday, February	21 2017 2:11 PM
To (b)(6)	who.eop.gov; Shulkin, David J., MD ^{(b)(6)} Dosc.gov
	senate.gov; Hodnette, Jon (Jon.Hodnette@mail.house.gov);
kyle_brosnan@hsgac.sen	
	plegion.org); betsy_dietz@isakson.senate.gov;
No.	nate.gov; contact@marcorubio.com; carolyn_moffa@paul.senate.gov;
courtney asbill@cruz.ser	nate.gov; (b)(6) Dmilitarytimes.com; caroline.ingram@mail_house.gov; Jones,
Verna (b)(6) @iava.c	org(b)(6)
(b)(6)	(OIG)(b)(6) @pva.org (b)(6) @vva.org (b)(6)

(b)(6) @vva.org); (b)(6) @vva.org); juliana.heerschap@mail.house.gov;
keith ashdown@hsgac.senate.gov; kristen.shatynski@mail.house.gov; larry.brady@mail.house.gov; broa.org(b)(6) @studentveterans.org; laurel saukai@vetaff.senate.gov;
©roa.org(b)(6) @studentveterans.org; laurel_saukai@vetaff.senate.gov; larry.brady@mail.house.gov(b)(6) @roa.org; mike.ricci@mail.house.gov; Campos, Rene
Subject: Disclosure to President Trump (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Importance: High
Hello Mr. President:
(b)(6)
Please feel free to contact me, if your office has any questions about this matter.
Thank you for your commitment to our Nation's Veterans!
Thank you for your commitment to our Nation's Veterans!
Respectfully:
(6)
From (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, December 28, 2016 4:02 PM
To: Shulkin, David J., MD; Gibson, Sloan
Cc: Young, Steven W.; Wright, Vivieca (Simpson); Jacobs, Joshua D.; Heiman, Ryan, MS; Field, Annette
Subject: Heads Up (b)(6)

)(6)					
1401					
0)(6)					
	for the error. Com	ments and que	stions please.		
My apologies t					
My apologies 1		<u> </u>			
My apologies (

Good day leadership.